

Grant Information

An environmental grant was obtained to provide assistance to tobacco growers throughout Kentucky. Our purpose is to educate and offer technical expertise in growing no-till tobacco. We offer utilization of a no-till tobacco transplanter as well as onsite guidance in enhancing conservation and wildlife habitat while growing tobacco. Any grower who has interest in no-till tobacco or has any questions is encouraged to contact us using the information on the back of this brochure.



Altria



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Natural Resources Conservation Service

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NO-TILL TOBACCO



...GOOD FOR THE
SOIL AND YOUR
BOTTOM LINE

Why Consider No-Till?

- **Cost Savings:** Less passes over field will save fuel and machinery input.
- **Labor Savings:** Fewer hours preparing fields will allow more time to manage other crops during critical times.
- **Soil Erosion:** Less soil disturbance less sediment runoff.
- **Soil Health:** No-till and cover crops can greatly improve soil structure and increase organic matter.
- **Compaction:** No-till allows for better nutrient cycling, water infiltration, water holding capacity, and root growth.



Why Use Cover Crops?

Cover Crops are a key component of a successful no-till system

- **Weed Suppression**—Cover crops keep the ground covered resulting in less weed emergence.
- **Moisture Holding Capacity**— Plant residues serve as a mulch blanket reducing soil temperatures while providing available moisture throughout the growing season reducing drought impact.
- **Water Infiltration**— Plant roots create pore space allowing water to infiltrate.
- **Nitrogen Fixation**— Legume cover crops create available N for plants.

Nutrient Scavenging— Cereal grains, grasses, and brassicas capture excess nutrients in the fall making them available to the subsequent crop.

Keys For Success in No-till Tobacco...

While no-till tobacco will work in a variety of soils, a medium textured soil is ideal. Choose a site with low known weed potential. In addition, if planning on following sod with no-till tobacco, a fall herbicide treatment is recommended. In the fall, soil sample to ensure adequate time for nutrient placement and establish a good cover crop. Terminate cover crop either by chemical or mechanical methods in the spring. To plant in shorter cover crops burn down at around 12"-18" in height. To maximize benefits of the cover crop, allow it to reach a seed head and terminate using a roller crimper method (In most cases a herbicide treatment will be necessary in conjunction with roll down). Apply pre-plant herbicides accurately and timely. Use insecticides and fungicides as necessary. At time of planting, soil moisture condition is crucial. Transplanting in ground that is too wet creates sidewall compaction, restricting root growth and can result in decrease yield. When managed properly no-till tobacco can offer many benefits to the producer and environment.